

# **Pedestrian, Bicycle, and Greenway Advisory Committee January 2020 Newsletter**

## **Tips For Safe Winter Trail Usage**

Hike through the winter months and enjoy crowd and bug-free trails. Rarely will you see the trails this beautiful and serene. Hiking, biking and running can still be enjoyed with a few easy preparations.

- Wear multiple wicking layers
- Carry a windbreaker
- Bring ample water to stay hydrated
- Bring your cell phone
- Make sure your shoes have adequate traction
- Go slow, with unsure footing it's better to be safe than sorry



A winter scene along Warrenton Branch Greenway

### **Save the Date**

The next full committee meeting of Pedestrian, Bicycle and Greenway Advisory Committee (PBGAC) is scheduled for Tues., February 4, at the Warrenton Community Center [430 E. Shirley Ave., Warrenton, VA 20186] at 6:30 pm. This date is the make-up date for January's meeting the was postponed due to inclement weather.

### **LOCAL Trail News**

Woods @ Warrenton Trail - Landscapes was issued a Notice To Proceed on 12/19/19. Construction expected to start by 1/19/2020. Land Disturbance Permit (LDP) was signed by Community Development and then sent to the State for signature. LDP is expected to be returned by 1/17/20.

Warrenton Branch Greenway Extension - Dominion Power and FCPRD have a meeting on 1/7/2020 to review the plans for the electrical conduit that will go under the Warrenton Branch Greenway. Timmons group finished those plans before Christmas and Donnie Kozanecki and Gary Rzepecki had some minor comments.

Remington Trail Railroad Crossing - Concept plan with details has been submitted to the Public Improvement Division of the railroad company.

Audubon Christmas Bird Count (Section 8 Leader) - Mr. Chuck Phillips and his team did a bird count on FCPRD properties and other properties in December 2019. **White's Mill**, the **Woods at Warrenton** (which he said was very impressive!) and Fauquier County Farm (which was the hot spot for the number and variety of birds) and wooded areas at Central Sports Complex.

### **REGIONAL Trail News**

#### **QuickStart Mini-grant Will Keep Students Biking in Winter**

One of the recently awarded QuickStart Mini-grants will make bicycle education a year-round thing. With the help of their \$1,000 grant, Prince William County Public Schools will purchase 15 indoor wind resistance bike trainers to use with the Bike Smart Virginia safety instruction and education program that is as part of their schools' health and physical education curriculum. PWCPS has two bicycle fleets used for bicycle safety education, which usually remain unused in cold weather. The rollers will keep things - well - rolling in PE classes, before and after school programs, and wellness programs. In all, nearly 1,000 students will get Bike Smart instruction by using the trainers in 6 schools over the winter months.

The winter training program benefits all students, especially those that haven't ridden a bike. The trainer allows students to learn how to ride a bike more comfortably, leading up to getting on a bike without using the rollers and riding on their own.



Indoor Bicycle Instruction with rollers.

### BLAST FROM THE PAST

In an article in the **Washington Post** entitled *Warrenton Students Cycle for Safety* dated October 24, 2004 highlights Raymond Crowell a PE teacher at Warrenton Middle School when the article was written. The article explains how Mr. Crowell is the first teacher in Fauquier County Public Schools to complete a Virginia Health Department bicycle safety course entitled “Bike Smart Basics Training.” This 12-hour course certified him to teach bicycle safety in health and physical education classes.

The article goes on to explain how Warrenton Middle School is the only school in the county (at the time) that has bicycles available for students. A grant from Bike Smart, Virginia! allowed FCPS to purchase 27 bicycles, helmets and other bicycle equipment.